

HOPE
FOR
TRANSGRESSORS



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COVER: posed by students of the Institute of Religion,
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Dear Brethren,

In the event that you have members who have homosexual tendencies or activities, it will be your privilege and responsibility to assist them to effect a cure and bring their lives back into total normalcy. This dread practice is becoming widespread in the country and there is some of it even among our members which we deeply regret.

Expressions of homosexuality and related perversions are varied and range from petting and love making to sodomy with its degradation. It is a despicable practice but when it once gets deeply entrenched in man or woman, it is difficult to dislodge. It is, therefore, your responsibility to assist any such person to recover himself and become normal again. Some are merely in the beginning stages and have a guilt feeling, knowing it is wrong. They can often be helped to a total cure by a kindly Church official who understands.

Such folks are generally lonely and sensitive ones. Extreme care must be taken to keep their problems confidential. They must not be unduly embarrassed. Their repentance and reformation cannot be forced—it can come only by kind persuasion.

Even though you may not be a trained social worker, psychiatrist nor psychologist, you have a power that no such specialist could ever have from his training only. You were promised discernment of spirit (See D&C 46:27) and though you would wish to be informed and alert, you still must draw heavily upon the source of all wisdom, and if you are dedicated and in total attunement with your Heavenly Father, you will be able to find solutions. There are no answers to fit every case—each one needs special consideration and treatment.

You must have the confidence of the person you are to help. He must feel that this is an intimate matter between you and him and neither your counselors, your wife, nor anyone else will be informed of his problem, so long as he is responding and making progress in his reformation.

There are many approaches—they must all be kindly and understanding.

Some people will respond to a scriptural approach. In Old and New Testaments and modern scripture all may convince the deviate that the practice is serious transgression. We would suggest to you that you become familiar with the various scriptures listed at the end of this

article and others so that you can use the right ones at the right time.

If the person believes in God, then he must believe in His written statements and he must believe that there is purpose in life other than merely "to eat, drink and be merry" and to satisfy one's craving and desires and passions.

There is an approach to reason. If he believes in the Lord's statements, the first of which was to multiply and replenish the earth, it is obvious that the world would be doomed by homosexuality for it can never produce a child. And without a continuing army of spirits coming to the earth to be embodied, the race would die out in one generation. Convince the individual that proper marriage and family life is the only thing to save this confused world and if men waste their seed and fail to sire children and rear them in righteousness in the true family life, certainly the race will disappear.

Reason might also be employed to convince the individual that there is no future for a homosexual. He may appear to "get by" while young and attractive but the day will come in his life when there is nothing left but chaff and dust and barrenness and desolation.

When the individual is convinced that it is transgression to be involved with those of his own sex or with anyone outside of proper marriage, and when he is assured that only futility and disappointment and loneliness lie ahead, then perhaps he is ready for you to prescribe therapy for him.

First, he should abandon all places, things, situations and people with whom this evil practice has been associated. Usually, there will be some resistance, particularly with the abandonment of the people for the many perverts will claim to have great "love" for some with whom they have been involved, especially where there has been a sustained relationship, but since the problem is in the mind more than in the body, it is necessary to find a new climate and to make possible the elimination of the evil thoughts which drive him back to his trouble. There could be exceptions, but generally, where partners in the practice continue to associate and intend to have only platonic relations, they often return to their sin and find it then infinitely more difficult to abandon. See Luke 11:21-26.

There must be positive action. Mere abandonment of the evil is only a first step in restoration. There must be substitution. The person should purge out the evil and then fill his life with constructive positive activities and interests. He will throw away his pornographic materials and will have ceased reading articles about homosexuality and will substitute therefor the scriptures and worthy books and articles which will give the mind proper occupation. Hence, a rather definite charting of the use of time is important. If the pervert will begin to read the scriptures methodically and carefully, he will find himself in a new environment. He will receive inspiration from

the holy scriptures and strength to overcome.

Most people who have practiced this perversion in depth, have already ceased to pray devoutly. Your therapy should include encouragement to return to prayer, not wordy repetition of wornout phrases, but a communication prayer wherein the individual seeks help from his Lord and then listens with understanding and determination. Luke 22:46.

Your first consultations may have been well received and the most sincere intentions stirred and the patient may have determined to live above his former life, but if he has been long involved in this practice, he will be tempted and enticed numerous times to return to his folly. Consequently, it is important that there be frequent visits with you, and this according to the depth of his involvement. He should make a confidential report to you every few days at first and occasionally for a long time until he feels secure and you have that confidence also. Anticipating his return to report to you in whom he now has confidence will be a deterrent and will sustain him as he fights valiantly against strong enticings of the evil one. He must not be abandoned to further temptation.

The entrenched homosexual has generally and gradually moved all of his interests and affections to those of his own sex rather than to the opposite sex and herein is another step. When you feel he is ready, he should be encouraged to date and gradually move his life toward

the normal. It is proper that a girl should be interested in a boy and a boy should be interested in a girl and though they will never indulge in sex until after their marriage makes it proper and meaningful, there are many of the afflicted ones who have no interest in the opposite sex and must now gradually develop it. Some homosexuals become effeminate and some lesbians become masculine in the dress, voice and mannerisms.

If they will close the door to the intimate associations with their own sex and open it wide to that of the other sex, of course in total propriety, and then be patient and determined, gradually they can move their romantic interests where they belong. Marriage and normal life can follow.

They cannot overcome by prayer only—they must both work and pray for deliverance from their prison. Every one is in somewhat the same position as Peter when the Lord said to him,

“Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.” Luke 22:31.

It must be understood that the sin of homosexuality in its degraded aspects is as serious as adultery and fornication. Therefore, after long, kindly and inspired efforts to help the homosexual to recover, if he will not cooperate, and if he becomes belligerent, the day may come when appropriate action must be taken, however, most of them, with proper assistance and kindly treatment, will recover. Rely on the spirit of the Lord to guide and inspire

you to say and do the right things to help these people to recover. They will love you for all eternity for your help to them. Do not give up the battle too soon nor too easily. You are entitled to special inspiration for every case but if you find some cases extra difficult and you feel that additional assistance and suggestions are necessary, feel free to contact the brethren who have been appointed to assist in this important phase of the church work—President Spencer W. Kimball and Elder Mark E. Petersen.

May the Lord bless you in this great work of recovering souls.

APPENDIX

REMEMBER:

Homosexuality CAN be cured, if the battle is well organized and pursued vigorously and continuously.

Homosexuality CAN be forgiven. Like other serious sins, it can be forgiven by the Church and the Lord if the repentance is total, all-inclusive, and continuing.

Homosexuality is not the fault totally of family conditions. Every normal person must answer for his own sins.

God did not make men evil. He did not make people "that way."

The bishop has power and resources far beyond the university training. D&C 46:27.

Satan will continue to thwart your efforts to change a life which has already turned to him. Luke 22:31, 32.

Prayer is an important element in the recovery. Luke 22:46.

Scripture reading can create a new atmosphere for the mind.

ABANDONMENT of persons, places, things, situations which have been associated with the transgression is important. Substitution of good for bad is the answer. See Luke 11:21-26.

Historically, it is condemned by the prophets.

See:

Leviticus 20:13, 15
Romans 1:26-28
Matthew 19:12
Ezekiel 18:21-23
2 Nephi 33:3-5
Moses 4:4
D&C 1:31-32
2 Nephi 9:31-34
2 Peter 2:17
Revelation 20:12
2 Nephi 15:19-21
2 Nephi 20:33
Acts 5:3-4
Abraham 5:18
D&C 104:5-6
Leviticus 18:22
1 Corinthians 6:9
John 8:11
2 Nephi 9:40
Alma 12:34
Revelation 3:20-21
D&C 1:33
2 Nephi 9:38-39
2 Nephi 27:3
Ezekiel 8:12
2 Nephi 20:15
Alma 5:17-21
D&C 132:52
D&C 42:22

Psalms 107:17
Deuteronomy 23:17
Matthew 18:8-9
1 Nephi 3:7
2 Nephi 9:40
D&C 58:42-43
Matthew 11:28-30
Moroni 7:12-14
Jeremiah 2:13
D&C 62:3
2 Nephi 15:15
Job 38, 39
Genesis, Chapter 4
James 1:13-15
Alma 41:5-10
Matthew 12:30
D&C 1:3
John 8:34
D&C 18:6
Revelation 2:17
Revelation 3:17-19
2 Nephi 20:3
2 Nephi 9:29
2 Nephi 2:27
Ether 2:15
2 Nephi 20:27
Psalms 1:7
1 Corinthians 7:23
D&C 18:11

Revelation 3:4-5
Revelation 7:13-15
Alma 3:27
2 Nephi 9:20-28
2 Nephi 10:23
Mosiah 16:11-12
Alma 3:26-27
D&C 19:15-18

Helaman 13:38
Revelation 3:12
Jeremiah 50:6
2 Nephi 26:22
2 Nephi 9:31-38, 40
Mosiah 26:35-36
Moroni 9:4